

CHURCH Life

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Thy faithfulness reaches to the skies. Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God; Thy judgments are like a great deep. O LORD, Thou preservest man and beast. How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! Psalm 36:5-7_a

We are faced with a dilemma! The Bible is packed full of scriptures very similar to this psalm king David wrote. We read through them searching for comfort and yet with almost the same breath we point our finger at God and blame Him for all the evil and wickedness we see around us. We struggle to reconcile what we know to be true with the experiences we have while living on this earth. Deep within our spirits we crave the peace, joy, and love expected by all believers in Jesus.

The core of our worldly philosophy rests in the thought that if God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent than ultimately He can stop all the wars, murders, abortions, diseases, and accidents. Because He has all the power to act and doesn't, in our eyes, do what we think is right, we claim the ultimate blame rests with Him. If we would be honest with ourselves, even though we may not speak it, we believe it in one degree or another.

First of all, we are not the only generation to struggle with thoughts like these. The first century believers were walking away from the Gospel in large numbers. The book of Hebrews is admonishing them to remain faithful in spite of their struggles. The devil loves nothing more than to cause children of God to question His love and care for them. His goal, as current ruler over this world; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, is to render powerless these very children of God. As Christians we know this and yet we are still pummeled with these thoughts that are whis-

pered in our ears.

Two thousand years ago, God the Son, set aside His glory to be born a man. His mother became pregnant while yet unmarried bringing potential shame and harm to herself and the child. The moment of birth found the child not in a sterile palace with the best physicians attending the birth but in a dirty stinky barn wrapped in a cloth and placed in a feed trough. By the age of two He had become a fugitive and His family found it necessary to escape the country. When He reached manhood, He was found to have no earthly wealth or power. He didn't even have a place to lay His head. Luke 9:58 His country, as a whole, rejected Him and His ministry. He was ridiculed, mocked, spat upon, beaten, accused falsely, unjustly convicted, and executed.

Unbeknown to everyone else, something much greater was happening in all of these things, as we can look back as see the results of what many would consider a failure of a life. God in His omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence planned with a purpose every event that transpired in the life of Jesus. During His life here on the earth He never traveled more than a few dozen miles from His birth place and yet his life has changed every person who had or ever will live on this whole earth. Through suffering, Jesus perfected our salvation. When things looked their worst, God was doing a work far beyond anything anyone could ever imagine. This is how God works.

The core of our redemption lies in this truth; *for we walk by faith, not by sight.* 2Cor 5:7 *Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.* Heb. 11:5

So if God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent than He is perfect in all His ways. There is no

plan or purpose better than what He determines. We can now confidently look around us and see the evil that Satan is planning and confidently say as David continued; *And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights. For with Thee is the fountain of life; In Thy light we see light.* Psalm 36:7_{b-9}

As we prepare this Advent season to celebrate the first coming of our Lord and Savior, may part of our prayer be as the father of the demon possessed boy, *"I do believe, help my unbelief"* Mark 9:24_b We can confidently look around us seeing the evil and say, *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name."* Matt 6:9 We will also be preparing for His second coming when He will return not as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah who will execute justice and judgment upon all those who have rejected Him.

Pastor Steve

Advent

A Season of Hope & Expectation

FIRST SUNDAY

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrates the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

☐ Sunday, December 1

THIRD SUNDAY

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

☐ Sunday, December 15

SECOND SUNDAY

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.

☐ Sunday, December 8

FOURTH SUNDAY

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angels' Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

☐ Sunday, December 22

Prayer Concerns

Week Ending Nov. 23 2024

Vicki Akers, Wendy Johnson,
Scooter Smith, Believers of
Ukraine

Week Ending Nov.. 16, 2024,

Myrna Bunch, Cleo Halsey,
Loved ones in Israel & Palestine,
Rev. Bill Pollack, James Rose,
and Wisdom for our government

Week Ending Nov. 9, 2024

Sam & Margaret Conner, Stephen
Shrewsberry

In the Military:

Mike Kennedy, Devin Lusk, T. J.
Morris, Robert Worrell

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola
Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

**Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement
Facilities:**

Glenwood Healthcare Center:
Cleo Halsey
Glenwood healthcare Center:
Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Church Council

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.
Ministry Teams —6:30 p.m.

Social Media Broadcast

Follow us on Facebook at First Christian
Princeton WV.

Website: firstchristianprincetonwv.org

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com



Christian Women Fellowship Pecan Sale

CWF are selling 1 pound bag of pecans , pecan pieces and mixed
nuts. Pecan halves are \$10.00 a bag, Pecans pieces are \$10.00
and mixed nuts are \$9.00. Please see Linda Kaluk, Linda
Cheverton or Barbara Forrest, if you are interested in purchasing
nuts for the holidays.

DECEMBER 2024

Elders: Michael Reed, Kenneth Reeves
Deacons: Ishmael Bhebhe, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Tonni Bennett, Beverly Reed
Advent Readers: TBA

Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women Fellowship will meet at 11:00 am on **Thursday,
December 5, 2024** in the upstairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m.** at
the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and



From the Archives

As part of our 2007 centennial celebrations, our congregation or-
ganized the Christ for Life Motorcycle Run as a fundraiser for
Planet Extreme Center in Princeton, for Appalachian Teen Chal-
lenge and for First Christian. It was similar to a motorcycle poker
run, but instead of drawing a poker card at each stop, the riders
drew a card with a Bible verse on it. Al Bell, Joy Bell and Randal
Dawson of our congregation worked with the Mercer County
Chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association to organize the
event, which was advertised via a billboard at the west end of the
bridge across the railroad tracks in Princeton.

The run started Saturday morning, May 5, at Cole Harley-
Davidson in Bluefield and included stops at check points at Shady
Springs, Hinton, Peterstown and, finally, Princeton where the bik-
ers and our congregation had a pig roast dinner with gospel music
provided by the Hughes Family and the Appalachian Teen Chal-
lenge Choir.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

December 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 <i>Michael Coburn</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	2	3 <i>Cassidy Lilly Hudgins</i> 7:00 PM Church Council	4 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	5 <i>Mike Elmore</i> 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship/Upstairs Lounge 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handbell Room 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	6 <i>Courtney Dye; Scott Okes</i>	7 <i>Tracy Reed, Kade Vipperman</i>																																																																																				
8 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 12:30 PM Annual Christmas Dinner	9 <i>Kami Anderson; Drema Wall</i>	10 <i>Debra Jones</i> 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams	11 <i>Terry Kierstead</i> <i>Matt & Michelle Dye</i> 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	12 6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handbell Room 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	13	14 <i>Greg Coburn</i>																																																																																				
15 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	16 Week of Submission Newsletter Articles & Announcements	17 <i>Zachary Coburn</i>	18 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	19 <i>Wyatt Anderson; Derrick Shrewsbury</i> <i>David & Stephanie Stinson</i>	20	21 <i>Darrell Folden</i>																																																																																				
22 <i>Casey Honaker</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS <i>Larry Wimmer</i>	26 <i>Doug & Mary Feuchtenberger</i> <i>Christie Reed</i>	27	28																																																																																				
29 <i>Evelyn Jenkins</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	30	31 Christmas Eve Celebration TBA <i>Harlan & Melissa White</i> <i>Cynthia Brannon</i>	<div><div>Nov 2024</div><table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table></div> <div><div>Jan 2025</div><table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table></div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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The Joy of Advent



Fellowship

The annual Christmas Dinner will be held after church on **Sunday, December 8, 2024.** Please join in foa a time of fellowship and good food. Turkey, Ham, Dressing, Gravy, Rolls, and Drinks will be provided. Last names beginning with A-H, please bring a casserole or vegetable dish. I-R desserts, and S-Z salads.

CWF

Christian Women Fellowship sent a check for \$500.00 to the Women Center of Mercer County for the domestic violence shelter. We would like to thank everyone that donated to this worthy cause.
Linda Kaluk

Membership

All Saints Sunday was November 3, 2024. We recognized our saints of the church who passed away in the past year. On Sunday, November 10, 2024 we recognized the veterans for their service. We thank all those who served our country.
I want to thank Cindy Brannon, Shirley White, Drema Wall, and Kenneth Reeves for helping on the Membership Team. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year!
Donna Reeves

New Member

First Christian Church welcomes Kay Arrington into membership on **Sunday, November 10, 2024.** Kay has been attending FCC for many months now. If you don't know Kay, she is Teresa Janning's mother. Welcome Kay!



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Thank you Church for your tremendous response to Operation Christmas Child. The final total was 94 boxes which were delivered to Johnston Chapel on **Tuesday, November 19,2024.** Our goal was 65, what should our goal be in 2025? *Linda Cheverton*

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Randolph Evans*, for the month of **November2024.** We are looking forward to having the Advent Readers for the month of **December 2024.**



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Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
firstchristianprincetonwv.org



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